

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ,JA

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: SEMICONDUCTOR
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SIA) STUDY PROJECT

REF: (A) TOKYO 9243 (B) STATE 116142 (C) TOKYO 6880

1. U.S. SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT
REPEAT NOT TESTIFY BEFORE STEVENSON SUBCOMMITTEE AS HAD
BEEN SCHEDULED.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH STR (HEIMLICH), STATE
(KATZ) AND COMMERCE (WEIL), VAN SAUN SIA'S NEWLY APPOINTED
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER
(A) ANTI-TRUST IMPLICATIONS OF SIA STUDY ON JAPAN, (B)
LEVEL OF USG REPRESENTATIONS TO GOJ ON PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED
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BY STUDY AND (C) READINESS OF TOKYO TRADE STUDY GROUP
(TSG) TO ASSIST IN STUDY (VAN SAUN CONTENTED BALLOUN TOLD
HIM ABOUT MAY 22 THAT TSG WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE NEW STUDIES
WHILE EXISTING STUDIES UNCOMPLETED). ANTI-TRUST PROBLEM IS
BEING ADDRESSED AND EARLY SOLUTION SEEMS LIKELY. VAN SAUN
WAS ASSURED THAT USG, INCLUDING OFFICE OF STR, CONSIDERED
STUDY A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY TO BE FULLY SUPPORTED

VIS-A-VIS GOJ IN OR UNDER AEGIS OF TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (TFC). AS FOR TSG ROLE, WE WERE CONFIDENT TSG WOULD

ASSIST STUDY, AND IN ANY EVENT EMBASSY WOULD FURNISH FULL SUPPORT.

3. IN STAFF-LEVEL COMMERCE/STATE DISCUSSIONS WITH VAN SAUN, CONSENSUS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON STUDY ALONG LINES SET FORTH REFTEL B BUT WITH BASIC MODIFICATIONS AS FOLLOWS. STUDY PROJECT WOULD HAVE SHORT-TERM AND LONGER-TERM PHASES. SHORT-TERM PHASE WOULD HAVE AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE PROMPT IDENTIFICATION OF JAPANESE BARRIERS TO IMPORTATION OF SEMICONDUCTORS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CASE FOR PRESENTATION LATE THIS SUMMER TO GOJ THROUGH TFC OR UNDER TFC AUSPICES. THE LONGER-TERM PHASE WOULD BE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIVE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE U.S. AND JAPANESE SEMI-CONDUCTOR INDUSTRIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MARKETING STRATEGY FOR JAPAN, WHICH COULD INCLUDE USDOC-ASSISTED MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

4. VAN SAUN EXPECTED TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO JAPAN.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE DISCREET CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH JAPANESE AND AMERICAN MEMBERS OF TSG TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF ASSISTING SIA STUDY. SCOPE AND NATURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DEVELOPED DURING VAN SAUN'S VISIT TO JAPAN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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